

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-35 are presently active in this application, Claim 3 having been amended and Claims 30-35 added by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 3 was objected to as including an informality requiring correction; Claims 1-17, 19-20, 23, 24, 26-29 were rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Bosquez et al (U.S. 6,522,938, "Bosquez"); and Claims 18, and 21-25 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bosquez.

In response to the objection to Claim 3, the noted informality has been corrected herewith. Also, the above changes to the specification clarify the terminology and are not believed to raise a question of new matter.

Applicants respectfully traverse the several grounds for rejection on the merits, because in Applicants' view the original claims patentably define over the cited art, for the reasons as next explained.

In particular, Claims 1, 23 and 28 respectively recite a method, an apparatus and a program product including features related to idle apparatuses, such as: (i) prompting input of category information for classifying idleness of idle apparatuses; (ii) prompting input of idleness information for specifying idle situations of idle apparatuses; and (iii) storing idleness information that specify idle situations of idle apparatuses. Claims 1, 23 and 28 are directed to subject matter for managing an apparatus., and in particular, subject matter by

which idle apparatuses can be managed. Further, when an apparatus is put in the idle situation, its cause can be analyzed. Therefore, productivity and quality of the apparatus can be improved.

Claim 8 recites: (i) prompting input of category information for classifying idle situations and idleness information of idle apparatuses; (ii) extracting information related to input information, from a memory device; and (iii) displaying the extracted information. Thus, apparatuses can be managed. In addition, when the apparatuses are put in a state of idleness, its cause can be analyzed. As a result, productivity and quality of the apparatuses can be improved.

Claims 14, 26 and 29 recite a method, an apparatus and a program code including the following features: (i) promoting input of inspection situation values of an apparatus; (ii) displaying an inspection item; (iii) storing input inspection situation values in a memory device; (iv) making statistical analysis based on inspection situation values; and (v) displaying the results of the analysis. Hence, with claims 14, 26 and 29, whether or not inspection of an apparatus is required, can be determined by referring to the inspection situation values. Thus, an apparatus can be managed accurately.

Bosquez describes a system which tracks the use of quartzware in vertical furnaces. The outstanding Office Action refers to column 1, line 66 to column 2, line 7 of the Bosquez reference. However, this section describes developing a system, characterized in that: (i) the system is easy to use so that all personnel can record quartzware utilization information, and maintain information about quartzware utilization; (ii) the system indicates which pieces of

quartzware need to be replaced during regularly scheduled maintenance; and (iii) a history of each piece of quartzware can be easily viewed. However, the Bosquez technique is related to managing the stock of quartzware, and not to managing an idle state of an apparatus.

In fact, Bosquez discloses quartzware that is classified as dirty/unusable, but such a quartzware does not correspond to the idle apparatus of claim 1 of the present application. Pending Claim 1 recites managing an apparatus. According to the present invention, when an apparatus is put in the idle situation, its cause can be analyzed. Thus, productivity and quality of the apparatus can be improved. Moreover, search and retrieval of required information can be easily performed since idleness information and category information are associated with one another. It is respectfully submitted that such advantages of Claim 1 are not at all suggested by Bosquez.

The outstanding Office Action also refers to column 5, lines 20-22 of Bosquez. However, this section describes that instruction 66 calculates statistical information based on inventory data of the quartzware. Therefore, the Bosquez reference does not suggest the subject matter of pending Claims 14, 16 and 19, which recite performing statistical analysis based on inspection state values. Further, the Bosquez reference does not suggest the advantages of determining whether or not an apparatus should be inspected, based on inspection situation values.

For the reasons above noted, it is respectfully submitted that Bosquez does not at all teach or obviate the subject matter of pending Claims 1-29. Accordingly, the outstanding grounds for rejection of these claims is traversed.

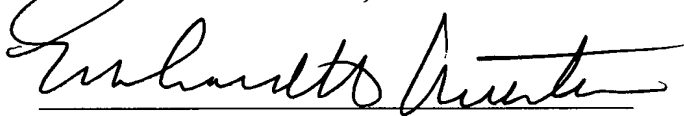
New Claims 30-35 are also submitted herewith and further define the subject invention in varying scope. Claims 30-35 are not believed to raise a question of new matter and are believed to be patentably distinguishing for the reasons presented above.

Application No. 10/028,788
Reply to Office Action of September 22, 2004

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above comments, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Eckhard H. Kuesters
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 28,870

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

I:\ATTY\EHK\AMEND-RESPONSES\0039\21S\217868US-AM1.DOC